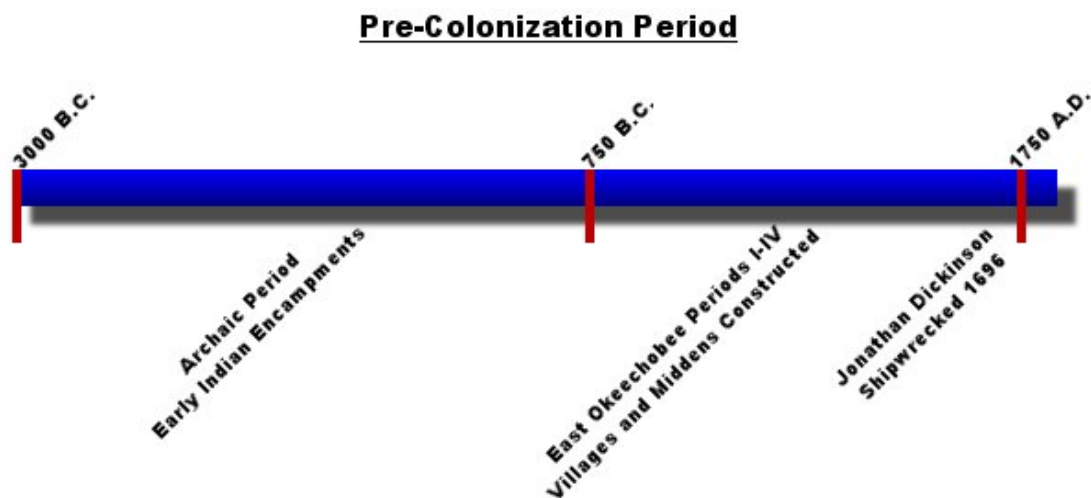


Loxahatchee River

Minimum Flows and Levels

History of the Loxahatchee River



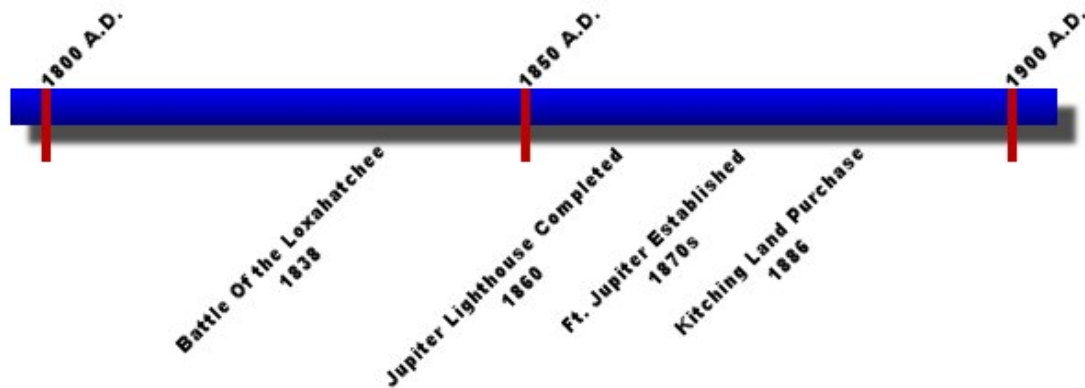
3000 - 750 B.C. Late Archaic Period: Early Indian encampments constructed along the River.

750 B.C. - 1750 A.D. East Okeechobee Periods I-IV: villages and middens constructed near the River.

1696 Jonathan Dickinson shipwrecked on Jupiter Island.

1800s Seminoles name the river "Lowchow" for "turtle" and "Hatchee" for "river".

Colonization/Homestead Period



1838 Battle of Loxahatchee (January 24th) during the Second Seminole War.

1850s Loxahatchee River known to locals as "Jupiter River".

1855 - 1860 Jupiter Lighthouse constructed.

1860s Early settlers arrive in Martin and Palm Beach County areas.

1870s Ft. Jupiter established on Jupiter Island and developer Henry Flagler begins to fill in natural slough areas.

1886 Walter Kitching family purchases land for \$1.25/acre and establishes a trade boat business.

Drainage Period



Late 1800s - 1912 Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway channelized between Jacksonville and Miami. Construction of St. Lucie and Lake Worth inlets further diverts freshwater flows away from Jupiter Inlet.

Early 1900s Construction of the Florida East Coast railroad trestle bridge with filling of surrounding submerged lands.

1928 Small agricultural ditch dredged to divert water from the Loxahatchee Marsh to the Southwest Fork.

1930s The Lainhart and Masten dams were privately constructed by local families on the

Northwest Fork.

Mid 1930s - 1942 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge the lower estuary.

1940's Bridge Rd. constructed and sod farms established, reducing freshwater flow to the northern portion of Kitching Creek.

1940 - 1941 Cypress trees logged along Kitching Creek.

1947 Jupiter Inlet permanently stabilized for navigation.

1947 U.S. Army Base "Camp Murphy" deactivated and state acquires the property to create Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

1957 - 1958 Southwest Fork is heavily altered, dredged and drained by the construction of the C-18 Canal to divert water from the Northwest Fork to the Southwest Fork, greatly reducing freshwater flows to the Northwest Fork.

1968 The State acquires land purchased by Trapper Nelson during the 1930s and established his home and grounds as an interpretive site.

1970 - 1971 Severe drought throughout the watershed further impacts freshwater flows.

1970 Loxahatchee River-Lake Worth Creek Aquatic Preserve established.

1974 C-14 Canal allows water to be re-diverted from the C-18 to the Northwest Fork.

1974 The G-92 Structure is constructed at the intersection of C-18 and the Northwest Fork allowing a flow of 50 cfs and maximum flow of 100 cfs to be redirected to the Northwest Fork.

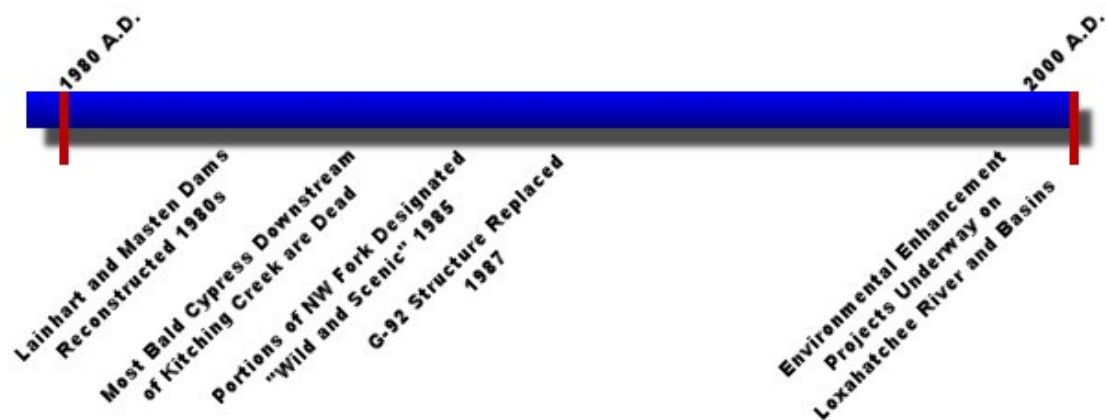
1975 Alexander and Crook document the historical migration of mangroves in areas that were formerly bald cypress.

1976 - 1977 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge the lower estuary, which increases saltwater intrusion.

1977 - 1978 Oyster bars are dredged at the FECRR Bridge to improve navigation and flushing in the embayment area.

1978 The Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District begins operation of a sewage treatment plant that discharges 0 to 2.0 million gallons per hour to the Northwest Fork.

Urbanization Period



1980s Lainhart and Masten Dams are reconstructed to maintain higher water levels.

1980 Operation of the S-46 Structure on the C-18 altered to provide more storage in the

canal. Discharge occurs to the Southwest Fork when water levels are greater than 15 feet above mean sea level.

1980 Three channels are dredged in the embayment area to improve navigation.

1981 In August, Hurricane Dennis impacts the area and causes prolonged heavy freshwater flows.

1984 Florida Department of Natural Resources reports that most bald cypress trees downstream of Kitching Creek are dead.

1985 Pristine portions of the Northwest Fork are designated as a Federal and State Wild and Scenic River.

1985 Severe freeze heavily impacts mangroves along the River.

1987 G-92 Structure is replaced by a gated control structure capable of passing up to 400 cfs via remote telemetry from the SFWMD Operations Control Room.

2000 Projects are underway to restore hydrology in the Loxahatchee Slough, Kitching Creek, Cypress Creek, and to enhance freshwater flow to the Northwest Fork.